**Target Employment Area Designation 2015**

**State of Idaho**

The Idaho Department of Labor is the designated authority within the state to certify the geographic area(s) or political subdivision(s) that conform to target employment areas as defined by 8 CFR 204.6 (e)(i),(e)(ii) and f(2), f(3).

*Definitions*

**Target Employment Area (TEA):** an area which, at the time of investment, is a rural area or an area which has experienced unemployment of at least 150 percent of the national average rate. The amount of capital necessary to make a qualifying investment in a target employment area within the United States is $500,000.

**Rural Area:** any area not within either a metropolitan statistical area as designated by the Office of Management and Budget or the outer boundary of any city or town having a population of 20,000 or more.

**High Employment Area:** a part of a metropolitan statistical area that at the time of investment is not a target employment area and is an area with an unemployment rate significantly below the national average unemployment rate. The amount of capital necessary to make a qualifying investment within the United States as defined in section 203(b)(5)(C)(iii) of the act is $1 million.

Methodology

Under the federal definition of target employment area, the Idaho Department of Labor certifies any rural area within the state as a target employment area excluding cities from rural counties with populations of 20,000 or more falling short of 150 percent of the national average unemployment rate. All official metropolitan statistical areas are also excluded unless geographic areas or political subdivisions within the metropolitan areas such as census tracts or a combination of adjacent areas within an MSA have in the aggregate an unemployment rate at least 150 percent of the national unemployment rate.

The data source for Target Employment Area (TEA) determinations is developed following the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) specifications for determining Areas of Substantial Unemployment (ASU) and provided to the department on an annual basis.

The smallest level of geography available for TEA determinations is census tracts. The estimates for the labor force by census tract are based on information collected from the American Community Survey (ACS). Two ratios are created from ACS data – one for employment and one for unemployment. The sum of these two is the labor force. Then unemployment rates result from dividing unemployment by labor force.

The specific methodology for deriving census tract estimates from ACS data is as follows:
- For employment, (1) create the employment ratio by dividing the five-year ACS employment for the tract by the five-year ACS employment for the county; (2) multiply that ratio by the current

monthly employment for the county (example: July 2013 benchmarked through June 2014 preliminary); and (3) round the result for each month to the nearest whole number (that is, number of persons).

- For unemployment, (1) create the unemployment ratio by dividing the five-year ACS unemployment for the tract by the five-year ACS unemployment for the county; (2) multiply that ratio by the current monthly unemployment for the county (example: July 2013 benchmarked through June 2014 preliminary); and (3) round the result for each month to the nearest whole number (that is, number of persons).

To be designated as target employment areas at the county level, all counties qualify with the exception of those counties included in metropolitan statistical areas. Cities with populations in excess of 20,000 located in rural counties are excluded from the designation unless the 150 percent-of-national-average-unemployment provision is met.
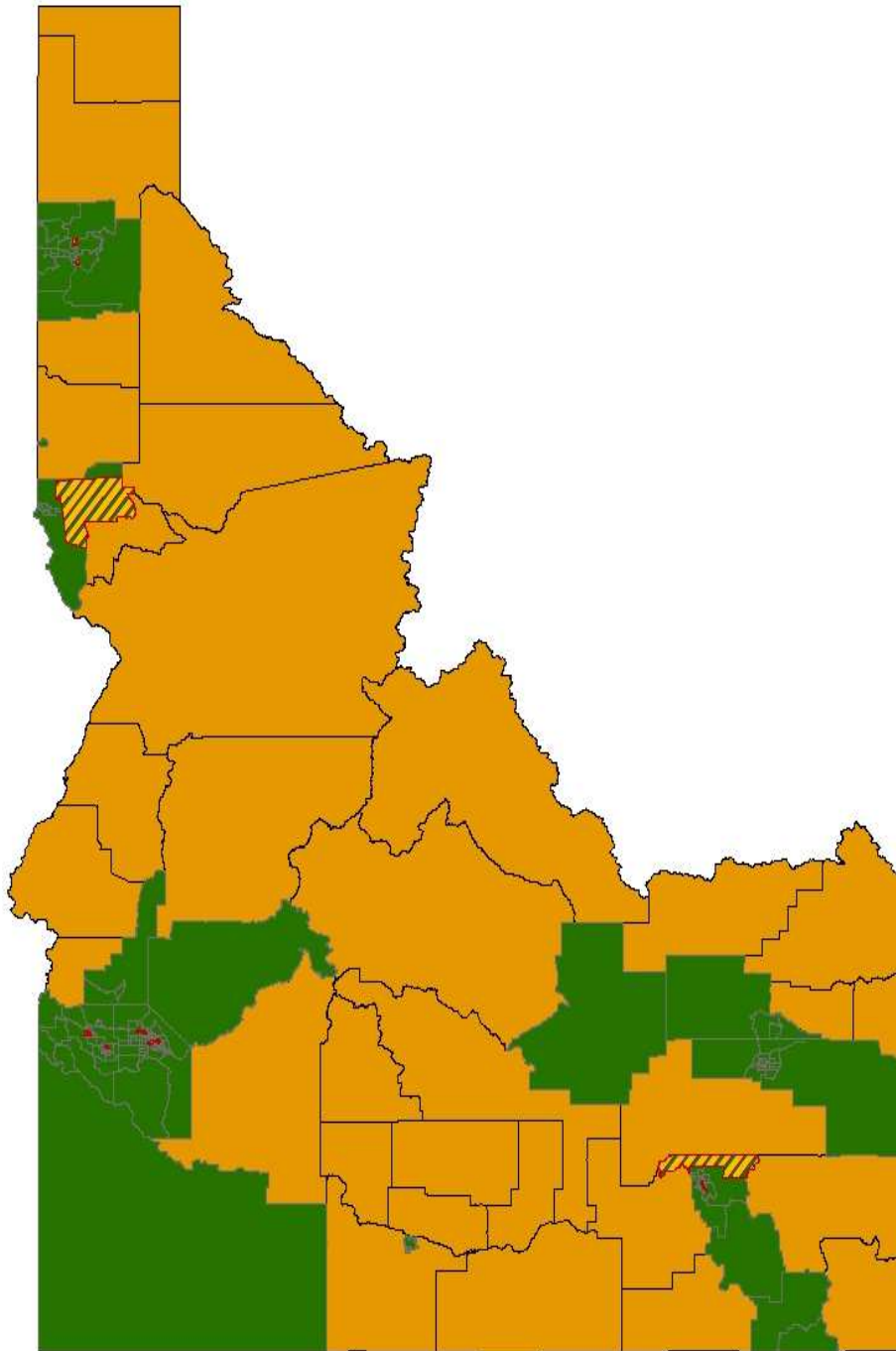
Cities or census tracts meeting the 150 percent-of-the-national-average-unemployment-rate provision located inside metropolitan statistical areas are automatically designated as target employment areas. A census tract or a combination of contiguous geography may be designated as a TEA for as long as the combination of the unemployed divided by labor force for such an area is at least 150 percent of the national average unemployment rate for the preceding 12-months of available labor force data based on the most recent July-June monthly unemployment rates at the time this determination is made. The 150 percent of the national average unemployment rate used for this year's determination is 10.138 percent.

The labor force data sets used to determine the national average unemployment rate consist of benchmarked data from July to December and the available preliminary data from January to June. For methodological purposes, TEA determinations are made using data made available by BLS in the fall of each year to be effective during the following full calendar year.

**Disclaimer**

*A state-issued TEA designation is not mandatory. EB-5 investors have the option of gathering the relevant publicly available state or federal statistics on their own and submitting them with their petitions to USCIS to have the TEA determination made by USCIS itself. Conversely, a state-issued certification or designation is not binding on USCIS. USCIS may exercise its own discretion and reject a state-issued certification or designation. The state of Idaho, the department and their officers, agents and employees do not make any express or implied warranties about the completeness, reliability or accuracy of the information and expressly disclaim any and all liability for any damages, losses or other expenses arising out of the use of this information. Any action EB-5 investors take upon the information on this website is strictly at their own risk. Investors should exercise due diligence before making EB-5 investments.*

**Target Employment Area Designation for year 2015**



- Areas in gold represent Target Employment Area (TEA) designations ($500,000 EB-5).
- Dark-green areas represent non-TEA metropolitan statistical areas or larger rural cities ($1,000,000 EB-5).
- Shaded areas inside metropolitan statistical areas met the 150 percent unemployment rate criteria for designation as TEA .

# Target Employment Areas Geographic Definitions, 2015

Target Employment Area: Census Tracts within Metropolitan Statistical Areas

| Metropolitan Statistical Area | County Name | StateCountyTract* | Labor Force | Employment | Unemployment | Unemployment Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bannock-Power | Bannock | 16005001300 | 1,443 | 1,291 | 152 | 10.53 |
| Bannock-Power | Bannock | 16005940000 | 717 | 634 | 83 | 11.58 |
| Boise City-Nampa | Ada | 16001000100 | 2,110 | 1,882 | 228 | 10.81 |
| Boise City-Nampa | Ada | 16001002000 | 2,554 | 2,289 | 265 | 10.38 |
| Boise City-Nampa | Ada | 16001002412 | 1,874 | 1,644 | 230 | 12.27 |
| Boise City-Nampa | Bannock | 16005000800 | 1,828 | 1,633 | 195 | 10.67 |
| Boise City-Nampa | Canyon | 16027020200 | 1,842 | 1,653 | 189 | 10.26 |
| Boise City-Nampa | Canyon | 16027021500 | 2,104 | 1,874 | 230 | 10.93 |
| Boise City-Nampa | Canyon | 16027021600 | 2,091 | 1,852 | 239 | 11.43 |
| Coeur d'Alene | Kootenai | 16055001002 | 1,871 | 1,666 | 205 | 10.96 |
| Coeur d'Alene | Kootenai | 16055001600 | 1,467 | 1,292 | 175 | 11.93 |
| Lewiston | Nez Perce | 16069940000 | 1,971 | 1,752 | 219 | 11.11 |

## Target Employment Area: Idaho Rural Counties

| County Name | County FIPS* |
|---|---|
| Adams | 003 |
| Bear Lake | 007 |
| Benewah | 009 |
| Bingham | 011 |
| Blaine | 013 |
| Bonner | 017 |
| Boundary | 021 |
| Butte | 023 |
| Camas | 025 |
| Caribou | 029 |
| Cassia | 031 |
| Clark | 033 |
| Clearwater | 035 |
| Custer | 037 |
| Elmore | 039 |
| Fremont | 043 |
| Gooding | 047 |
| Idaho | 049 |
| Jerome | 053 |
| Latah** | 057 |
| Lemhi | 059 |
| Lewis | 061 |
| Lincoln | 063 |
| Madison | 065 |
| Minidoka | 067 |
| Oneida | 071 |
| Payette | 075 |
| Shoshone | 079 |
| Teton | 081 |
| Twin Falls** | 083 |
| Valley | 085 |
| Washington | 087 |

*FIPS: Federal Information Processing Standards

** The Cities of Moscow and Twin Falls are excluded.